

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23993 181842Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7298

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, CAMERON STATION, ALEXANDRIA

DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY CTR, CAMERON STATION, ALEXANDRIA

DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY REGION EUROPE, VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23993

USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7; DFSC FOR DFSC-D.

E.O. 11652: 31 DEC 83

TAGS: MILI, FR

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS FOR COMMERCIAL
STORAGE IN FRANCE.

1. DUE TO THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF SERVICEABLE STORAGE
FACILITIES FOR NAVAL AVIATION FUEL (JP-5) AND DIESEL
FUEL (DFM) FOR US NAVAL VESSELS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRA-
NEAN, THE DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY CENTER HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING
TO LOCATE SUITABLE COMMERCIAL BULK PETROLEUM STORAGE IN
THAT AREA -- TO INCLUDE SOUTHERN FRANCE -- SHOULD FUNDS
BECOME AVAILABLE. UTILIZATION OF COMMERCIAL STORAGE IN
FRANCE COULD GREATLY ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS THAT COULD BE
CAUSED IN AN EMERGENCY BY THE CURRENT MALPOSITIONED IN-
VENTORY NOT READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE US NAVY. CURRENTLY,
BULK PETROLEUM IS STORED IN FRANCE IN THE DONGES METZ
PIPELINE SYSTEM, AS WELL AS IN THE L'ESPIQUETTE NATO TER-
MINAL NEAR MARSEILLE. OTHER DOD AGENCIES ALREADY HAVE
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SUPPLY AND/OR SERVICE CONTRACTS IN FRANCE.

2. PRIOR TO INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL ON THE SOUTHERN
COAST OF FRANCE, PERMISSION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE FRENCH
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP TO DIS-
CUSS US NEEDS WITH POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS. DISCUSSIONS
WITH POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS REVEALED THAT SUITABLE COMMER-
CIAL STORAGE (APPROXIMATELY 276,000 BARRELS OF JP-5 AND

578,000 BARRELS OF DFM) IS AVAILABLE IN THE VICINITY OF MARSEILLE.

3. FRENCH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AUTHORITIES INDICATED THAT PRIOR TO TAKING ANY FURTHER STEPS IN THIS MATTER, FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL MUST BE OBTAINED. EMBASSY THEREFORE INTENDS, UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTIONS, TO SUBMIT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO QUAI IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, REQUESTING AGREEMENT THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES MAY NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR COMMERCIAL STORAGE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED BULK PRODUCTS TO BE LOCATED IN FRANCE.

4. DEPARTMENT COMMENT, IF ANY, WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY 26 AUGUST.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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